

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A container for blending food product comprising:

a vessel having an upper opening through which food product is chargeable into the vessel, the opening defining a circumferential rim having ~~ana~~ radially projecting outer periphery, and the vessel further having a lower end at an opposite end of the vessel to the upper opening,

a lid for closing the upper opening, the lid being fitted over said outer periphery of the opening and secured by a clip or a sealing action,

blending means for blending food product in the container, the blending means including an impeller mounted on the lid for rotation relative thereto and for location within the container, the blending means further being drivably connectable to drive means external to the container, the impeller being united with the lid during use, and

the container being arranged to be engaged by securing means for securing the vessel in an inverted position during blending, wherein the container is configured such that the lid and impeller are lowermost and the lower end is uppermost in the inverted position, and wherein the vessel is nestable with other vessels of the same kind and configuration, one inside another such that when nested the lower end of the nesting vessel is adjacent the lower end of a nested vessel.

34. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 33, wherein contents of the container are able to be heated by heating means when in a blending position.

35. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 33, wherein the container is arranged to be releasably located between a container support on which the vessel is supported in an inverted position during blending and a securing member engageable with the vessel.

36. (Currently Amended) A container ~~according to claim 33~~ for blending food product comprising:

a vessel having an upper opening through which food product is chargeable into the vessel, the opening defining a rim having an outer periphery, and the vessel further having a lower end at an opposite end of the vessel to the upper opening,

a lid for closing the upper opening, the lid being fitted over said outer periphery of the opening and secured by a clip or a sealing action,

blending means for blending food product in the container, the blending means including an impeller mounted on the lid for rotation relative thereto and for location within the container, the blending means further being drivably connectable to drive means external to the container, the impeller being united with the lid during use, and

the container being arranged to be engaged by securing means for securing the vessel in an inverted position during blending, wherein the container is configured such that the lid and impeller are lowermost and the lower end is uppermost in the inverted position, and wherein the vessel is nestable with other vessels of the same kind and configuration, one inside another such that when nested the lower end of the nesting vessel is adjacent the lower end of a nested vessel,
wherein the lid includes access means arranged to permit access to the food product in the vessel when the lid and vessel are in an assembled condition.

37. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 36, wherein the access means is an opening through the lid, the opening being closed during blending.

38. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 33, wherein the impeller is mounted for rotation relative to the lid by location through an opening in the lid as a push fit, and wherein the impeller is secured in the opening by integral clip.

39. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 38, wherein the impeller includes a shaft forming a bearing surface against the walls of the opening, the shaft being integral with impeller blades of the impeller.

40. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 33, wherein the impeller is of one piece plastics construction.

41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus for blending food product comprising a vessel with an upper end defining an upper opening, the upper opening having an outer periphery which defines the largest outside diameter of the vessel, the vessel further defining an annular outer wall, and a lid for the vessel, the lid being fitted over the outer periphery of the upper opening in use, the lid housing blending means including an impeller extending into the vessel in use and being rotatable relative to the lid, and a holder for the vessel, the holder having an annular inner wall configured for receiving the vessel so as to circumscribe the outer wall of the vessel, the vessel being mounted in the holder and inverted, during use, for engagement with drive means external to the vessel and the lid for driving the impeller, and mounting means for supporting the vessel during blending with the lid lowermost and in engagement with said mounting means.

45. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the vessel is invertably mountable on the mounting means during a blending operation, the blending means extending upwards into the body of the vessel.

46. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the holder comprises a jug into which the vessel is located during a blending operation, wherein the vessel is secured on the mounting means during blending.

47-48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein contents of the vessel are able to be heated by heating means when in a blending position.

50. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the holder releasably supports the vessel and comprises a vessel support on which the vessel is supported in an inverted position during blending and a securing member engageable with the vessel.

51. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the lid includes access means arranged to permit access to food product in the vessel when the lid and vessel are in an assembled condition.

52. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the access means is an opening through the lid, the opening being closed during blending.

53. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the impeller is mounted for rotation relative to the lid by location through an opening in the lid as a push fit, and wherein the impeller is secured in the opening by integral clip.

54. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 53, wherein the impeller includes a shaft forming a bearing surface against walls of the opening, the shaft being integral with impeller blades of the impeller.

55. (Previously Presented) A blending apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the impeller is of one piece plastics construction.